

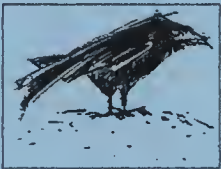
*Journal of the American Society of Crows and Ravens Vol. XXI, No. 1, 2005 (C.E.)*

# HAPPY 2006 *Plan ahead!*



*melody as often as possible.* If you live in the Sun Belt travel to more northern latitudes.

**F**EBRUARY *Dispel gloom.* Make good conversation. Write and mail stylish letters. Do not consume or commit electronic communication.



**M**ARCH *Be prudent.* Look for wild ramps. Avoid processed foods that contain coal tars.

**A**PRIL *Be hopeful.*  
Watch courting  
crows as they dance  
and preen.



**M**AY *Feel renewed:*  
Spend as much time  
as possible with young  
plants, animals and people.  
The younger the better.

**JUNE** *Be patient:* Listen to the desperate calls of fledgling crows and the increasingly unconcerned ones of adult birds.



Tuesday or Thursday.

**A**UGUST *Be content.*  
Vacation in places  
where you are apt to meet  
ravens.



**S**EPTEMBER *Be smart.*  
**M**ake hay only on sunny days and do not feel compelled to harvest all you have sown.

**O**CTOBER *Be prepared.*  
Take down scare-  
crows and replace with  
attractive carcasses.



**N**OVEMBER *Avoid dis -*  
*appointments: Vote*  
for the candidates who  
promise the least.

**D**ECEMBER *Be grate-*  
*ful.* Winter flocks of  
crows have gathered  
again. Visit and enjoy  
their roosts.



Stationery art contributed by  
ASCAR members. See Art Notes, page 4.

# CAW NOT

*There are ... some folks who never  
feel the call of religion, and  
others who seldom do,  
except  
at funerals or while crossing home  
plate after hitting a home run.  
But for most ... religion to a  
greater or lesser extent – fills the  
need for comfort (solace) and  
support (we're all in this together).*



"Flying with the Dragon," hand-colored linocut by Evon Zerbetz, Ketchikan, Alaska, for *Ten Rowdy Ravens*.

Corvi 43 took a hard swipe at religion in his diatribe against the Intelligent Design / Creationist conspiracy. Just because Creationists are a small, if very loud, religious minority in this country is no reason why they can't stand up and say the world is flat or that it's 4,004 years old or that God sees every sparrow fall or that penguins prove the existence of intelligent design or that all life is precious, except maybe kudzu and rats, and possibly house ants, for which poison is just.

You shouldn't mock religion. Mankind needs religion for two reasons: personal solace and social cohesion. Preachers and priests may disagree but all religious belief is based on these two needs. Personal solace and social cohesion (one or the other, and sometimes both) are at times of vital importance to most people and are why they turn to religion, openly or secretly. There are, of course, some folks who

never feel the call of religion, and others who seldom do, except at funerals or while crossing home plate after hitting a home run. But for most people religion – to a greater or lesser extent – fills the need for comfort (solace) and support (we're all in this together).

Most ministers, priests, rabbis, imams, clerics, gurus, lamas, maharishis and so forth become religious leaders because they feel the need to comfort people and to offer them a base, so to speak, and many do a warm and admirable job. Inevitably and unfortunately, various religious leaders over the centuries – usually someone with a strong sense of self-importance, a forceful personality, a persuasive voice and nowadays a microphone – slide a step ahead and assume a cloak of wisdom and knowledge woven of the same cloth that the emperor of no clothes favored. The cloak is accepted on faith but is presented as fact. "I

know. Never mind how I know, just believe me and do what I tell you." This, it turns out, can lead to extravagance in the name of God, personal solace more or less forgotten and social cohesion carried to an extreme – Christian Crusades to the Holy Land; Muslim terrorism against Great Satan Christians; devout Hindus and Muslims celebrating Indian independence by murdering one another in droves; Irish Catholics and Irish Protestants blowing people away; fanatic Jews assassinating non-fanatic Jews in Israel; church-going Protestants and Catholics in Reformation and Counter-Reformation Europe remembering Christ's admonition to "love one another" by killing each other decade after decade in the all-Christian (no infidels need apply) Hundred Years War; and, narrowing Christian belief to a fine degree, destroying each other in the Calvinist-Anglican or all-Protestant

civil war in Great Britain in the 1600s. In the name of God, Amen.

A few years ago a sincere church-going man, worried about events, said to a cynical friend, "Can you imagine what the world would be like *without* religion?"

"There'd be fewer wars," said the cynical friend. Maybe so.

The cartoonist Wylie ran a drawing in his comic strip recently showing the gate of heaven, with an angelic type welcoming a new arrival. The new arrival seemed confused [by] a sign that read: THIS IS HEAVEN. KEEP YOUR RELIGION TO YOURSELF. "That's why it is so peaceful here," the angel explained.

The Creationists have the right to believe what they want but they don't have the right to force their Unintelligent Design on others. – Corvi 714, from a roost between Grangerville and Gansevoort in upstate New York



# CORVI 43 REPLIES

I am in complete agreement with the last sentence of 714's thoughtful remarks. So it would seem as Thomas Jefferson who once observed: "It does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are 20 gods or no God. It neither picks my pocket or breaks my leg."

Also I am in general agreement with most of the rest of 714's response. Seeking psychic certainty is a very common, perhaps innate, human activity. In this search many have found religious beliefs and practices to be useful and comforting. With obvious exceptions whatever gets somebody through the night deserves to be treated respectfully by others.

But as 714 also points out religion frequently evolves – an expression – into Religions. As institutions, Religions have been breeding grounds for many vicious zealots and xenophobes to whom it has been revealed, so they claim, exactly what

humans should be. These divine spokespersons are often able to convince congregations that much worse than having your pocket picked or breaking a leg is having to put up with wrong "uns": i.e., persons of different origins and persuasions, Muslims, Christians, Catholics, Protestants, heretics, heathens, outside agitators, hedonists, secular humanists and such.

Which brings us to Creationists. They are various ranging from Jefferson's 20-god kind to all sorts of animists, pantheists and monotheists. None do injury by simply believing the universe was created by divine committee, a raven, a bear, a Very Good or Very Scary or Very Smart Man. But recently what might be called the American Creationist Establishment (which was the subject of comments in the previous issue of the Chronicle) has become pushy and belligerent. Specifically they are belligerently pushing

the conceit that Intelligent Design (which has been called creationism in a cheap tuxedo) should be introduced into our schools as valid science, at least as valid as evolutionary theory.

This past November voters in Dover, Pa., turned out of office all eight members of a school board that had accepted Intelligent Design as science and replaced them with eight citizens who thought that, if taught, Intelligent Design, should be taught in a comparative religion class. Learning of this Pat Robertson, the prominent TV evangelist and founder of the Christian Broadcasting Network, electronically thundered: "I'd like to say to the good citizens of Dover, if there is a disaster in your area, don't turn to God – you just rejected Him. And,"

Northwest crow, ink drawing by D.W. Miller, Bellingham, Wash.

Robertson added ominously, "don't wonder why He hasn't helped you when problems begin."

Since I can put it no better or more plainly that he did, I conclude by repeating the words of 714: "The Creationists have the right to believe what they want but they don't have the right to force their Unintelligent Design on others." I can only add that when they start pushing and shoving, the rest of us have the right to mock them, as they deserve to be.



## BOOKS

### *crows inspire poems, young adult novel*

Two books of interest to corvi have come to our attention. *Crow Milk*, a collection of poems by Rick Agran and *The Mob*, a novel for young adults by Clem Martini.

Agran's book contains one poem about crows from which the book takes its name. Oyster River Press published the poems in 1997.

A poet and educator, Agran lives and works in New Hampshire.

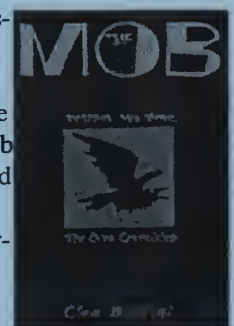


<http://www.andresinstitute.org/writers.html>

We found a reference to *The Mob* online and learned that Martini's book is one in a trilogy *Feather and Bone: The Crow Chronicles*, published by Kids Can Press 2004. *The Mob* tells of a crow family, the Kinaars. When the family converges for the annual Gathering, a mob makes a revenge attack on a cat – with disastrous consequences. The Gathering should be a time to rejoice. Instead, it becomes a time of fear, danger and uncertainty, when ancient laws and customs are tested. A tribunal passes judgment – the instigator of the Mob, the

impulsive and charismatic Kyp, must be punished. Then, just when the Kinaars are divided over the Mob attack, an unexpected blizzard spells more trouble. They desperately need a safe roost. The family splits, leaving the Gathering Tree to seek shelter in forbidden worlds.

Clem Martini is a playwright and



*Continued on page 4*



## Continued from page 3 BOOKS

screenwriter who writes for adults and young people. He teaches at the University of Calgary and is a three-time winner of the Writers Guild of Alberta Drama Prize. On a Web site, Martini explains his interest and admiration of crows and how one of his daughter's observations stirred his imagination. <http://www.embracingthechild.org/amar-tini.html>

Waiting with his youngest daughter for her school bus to arrive, "an immense flock of birds cut across the [morning] sky, came to rest in a crooked poplar tree, and promptly commenced chattering with one another. Miranda ... remarked that it was just like a family reunion. That got me thinking. What if it was a family reunion?"

I mean, what if it was? ... I had been conditioned to believe that animals could belong to ... herds and flocks and pods and packs, but animals couldn't possibly have families, and they certainly couldn't hold family reunions. But, why not?

That question folded in nicely with something else I'd been ruminating on, and that was how badly people underestimated crows. ... I happened to like crows. I always had. I liked the friendly, careless way they hung out with one another, and the rakish way they seemed to relish life, but for some reason, ... crows just got on people's nerves. They were too everything. .... And however many there were, there were always too many. ...

The more I looked into crows... the more I learned. Rather than being a pest, I found, crows played a major role in controlling pests. A large part of the crow diet consists of bugs, worms, larvae, grasshoppers, mice and moles - all creatures that eat and destroy crops. I found out crows possessed many unrecognized virtues. They were loyal. When a crow puts out a distress call, other crows will show up from miles around to help. When a crow dies, others will gather around and hold vigil. ... Far from being "bird brained," crows, I learned, were smart — crows have been witnessed constructing simple tools to fish food out of bottles...."

Occasionally ASCAR members are inspired to sketch crows or ravens on their notes to the editor. Some are artists and submit sketches, but others seem merely to be prompted by whim and will draw a crow near the signature or on the envelope they are addressing to ASCAR. Over time the editor has filed some of these sketches for use in the Chronicle. The calendar thoughts for 2006 inspired the use of some stationery sketches on page 1.

In accordance with the ASCAR Privacy Act, these artists are identified by their corvi numbers and roost location, exceptions are artists who have been named previously in this or another issue when their art appeared. JANUARY's lone crow on a bare branch is one of the earlier inspired sketches saved. Alas the editor is being mocked for filing the original away chronologically with no memory of the year received or details about the artist. The crow was drawn on ruled notepaper and seems clearly to be issuing a CAW!

FEBRUARY's crow delivering mail is a sketch or perhaps a rubber stamp that appeared on an envelope from Corvi 721 of the Oak Harbor, Wash., roost. MARCH is a particularly fine ink envelope sketch from Corvi 326, Milwaukee, Wis. APRIL's dancing crows are a detail from an elaborate "Fine Feathered Friends" cartoon series by Corvi 76, Seattle, Wash.

MAY's flying crow is from Corvi 630, Houma, La. roost. JUNE's delicate sketch appeared in lieu of a signature for Corvi 392, Eau Claire, Wis. JULY's perched crow was sketched along side a mailing address for Corvi 550, Brooklyn, N.Y. AUGUST's sketch is an early computer drawing submitted by Celia Price, Garberville, Calif., the artist and raven observer whose observations inspired her

drawings and watercolor The Burd designs for cards, see the artist burd on this page. She can be contacted by email [celia@thesticks.net](mailto:celia@thesticks.net).

SEPTEMBER's wary corvid may be a freehand drawing or perhaps a rubber stamp image from Corvi 876, Wauconda, Ill. OCTOBER's svelt crow comes from CorelDraw clip art images on the letterhead of **Mark Behme, Silver Spring, Md.**, an artist whose crow-themed work has appeared in previous issues.

NOVEMBER's Three Crows in a Bare Tree is a montage greeting from Crow Creek

Think Tank, Dallas, Texas. DECEMBER's holly bearing raven was an informal greeting card from Corvi 942, Bayside, Calif.

The Snowman with Crow on page 8 is a drawing submitted by **Joyce Haynes, an artist and illustrator in Pineville, Mo.** Joyce specializes in what she calls anthropomorphic classics: painting people's pets into portraits from art history classics such as a the *Mona Lisa* or Grant Wood's *American Gothic*. The classic selected all depends on the pet's personality, she says. She also has a line of greeting cards. To see and learn more about her art visit the Renaissance Roux Web site: [www.press-info.com/roux](http://www.press-info.com/roux)

We repeated a black and white image on page 2 that appeared in the previous edition of one of 26 hand-colored linocut illustrations by **Evon Zerbitz** in her new book written by Susan Ewing, *Ten Rowdy Ravens*, published by Alaska Northwest Books. Visit her Web site at <http://evonzerbetz.com/>

The ink drawing of a northwest crow on page 3 is by **D.W. Miller, an illustrator in Bellingham, Wash.**, who has generously provided several drawings for Chronicle use. He specializes in natural history subjects, reconstructing extinct fishes and invertebrates from the fossil record. See more of his work at <http://www.paleobooks.com/home.html>.

# Art Notes



One of The Burd series of card illustrations by Celia Price, Garberville, Calif.





## THE TALK OF THE ROOST

### TUNING TO A ROOST

Corvi 127 of Seattle, Wash., pointed us to the Sept. 26, 2005, edition of BirdNote.org, a two-minute radio series sponsored by the Seattle Audubon Society. Titled "The Crows' Night Roost," written by Ellen Blackstone, the Sept. 26, 2005, show focused on the sounds of crows gathering for their nightly roost during fall and winter months. KPLU 88.5 public radio in Seattle broadcasts the BirdNote series produced by John Kessler with executive producer Chris Peterson.

In addition to providing sounds of crows, the roost program refers to American Society of Crows and Ravens Founder Bil Gilbert for theories on winter roosts (see also page 7 Roost Notes on the Wonder of Winter Roosts). The program ends with an invitation to learn more about crows and their growing populations by visiting the BirdNote.org Website.

To listen to the crows' night roost, go online to <http://www.birdnote.org>, then scroll down to the BirdNote archives and select September. On the September page, again scroll down to locate "The Crows' Night Roost" and click on the prompt "To Learn More." This takes you to the specific program with options to select and click on Play MP3 or Download MP3 or View Transcript. If these directions seem too complicated, ask your favorite 8-year-old to give you a hand (not meant to be demeaning, but a

simple, pleasant solution to getting there with the least aggravation).

### TERM OF ENDEARMENT

When Corvi 72 who came to Lawrence, Kan., by way of her native Portugal, found ASCAR, she smiled and said that crows and ravens were known as *vincentes* in Portugal and that many Portuguese place and family names are related to "corvo" or "crow." In fact the smallest and northernmost island of the Azores archipelago is the Island of Crow (*Ilha do Corvo*).

The term *vincentes* for crows comes from fourth-century legends surrounding St. Vincent of Saragossa (Zaragoza, Spain). He is the patron saint of Portugal, Valencia, Saragossa and many other European towns. He is also, we learned, the patron saint of vintners, vinegar makers and oenophiles.

How St. Vincent came to be the patron of vintners is open to opinion according to Saints Preserved Web site, where we learned that the Feast of St. Vincent is celebrated Jan. 22 in many European communities and in many wineries everywhere. Through the Saints Preserved page on St. Vincent of Saragossa, we also learned that the Domaine Berrien Cellars & Winery of Berrien Springs, Mich., (less than an hour's drive from Kalamazoo) produces a St. Vincent wine that has won a few awards in recent years.

How crows and ravens came to be

known as *vincentes* in Portugal is also open to opinion, but all versions of the legend of St. Vincent's route to Lisbon feature crows or ravens as guardians of his remains.

One of many Christians martyred during the reign of the Roman Emperor Diocletian, Vincent, a church deacon, died in 304 while imprisoned in Valencia after being tortured repeatedly to renounce his faith. One theory is that to avoid giving the local Christians access to a burial site and to start a cult from the deacon's remains, authorities had the body thrown off the city walls to be consumed by animals. A raven or ravens, legend says, protected the mangled and rank corpse from scavengers.

When Roman officials discovered the body had not been destroyed, one account says that a stone was tied to the neck and the body was tossed into the sea. During a storm, the sea pitched what remained of the body onto a beach where local Christians found and buried the remains outside the walls of Valencia. In the eighth or ninth century, during the Moor invasions, St. Vincent's remains (or some of them) were moved to a chapel on Portugal's Algarve coast near what became the Cape of St. Vincent. One account says that 12 sacred crows or ravens guarded the chapel (*Igreja dos Corvos* or Church of the Crows). Religious pilgrimages to the burial site continued to fuel the now established legend.

Some 30 years after the Moors were

*Continued on next page*

## NO LONESOME DOVES

Please sign me up as a member of the American Society of Crows and Ravens. I believe my mother, living in Laguna, Calif., is now receiving my publication.

Also a question: Why does San Antonio not have a large crow population? I have been living in San Antonio for approximately one and a half years. I have only seen three crows since moving here, and that was October 2004. There are many boat-tail grackles, starlings and doves (MANY doves), however, no crows. I've email[ed] the Audubon Society located in San Antonio regarding the absence of crows, however, the Society has yet to respond. If any of your readers live in this city, I'd be curious to know if they have seen crows, and where are the crows "hanging out." Many thanks. — *Corvi 722, San Antonio, Texas*

## STACKING UP

Dear Editor and Associate Minion

I received my first Corvi Chronicle and enjoyed everything about it from cover to cover!

I shall keep my eyes open to shiny corvidae news that I may share with your readers. My own family of crows likes to visit on Sundays, when I leave pancake offerings on a large rock for them. The greediest crow takes pancakes and stacks them on top of each other then carries them off in its bill. Now that's smart! The most he can carry is three. Cordially — *Corvi 929, Pineville, Mo.*

## ARE YOU TALKIN' TO ME?

It was good to get the latest issue of "Corvi (Chronicle)"; as some confessed in this issue — I too have been remiss in helping out such an interesting "letter."



## LETTERS

I spent parts of the late 80s to mid-90s in Kodiak and Adak, Alaska, with the U.S. Coast Guard. I have written you before. The most amazing thing I experienced is still very strong in my memories. We had pulled into Adak for some R&R during Alaskan fisheries patrols. I was walking from the dock to the "Bowling Alley" (first place with beer) and a very large Raven was standing beside the road. As I walked by — maybe 15 feet from him — he puffed up and called to me. I answered back in as shrill a voice as I could. He all at once SEEMED 3-feet tall and was walking toward me. I will never forget the fear I felt. They are very, very much unusual and terrific birds.

Thanks for your Chronicle and enclosed is a little to help keep it going. — *Corvi 624, Elizabeth City, N.C.*

## CHATSWORTH PARK MOMENT

Thank you for hosting such a worthwhile site. I love crows and ravens, always have, and would like to see them protected and better understood. They are magnificent birds.

One day in our neighborhood in Chatsworth, Calif., we drove up the street a bit before dusk and found more than a thousand crows gathered, who probably had their roost in nearby Chatsworth Park, and had gathered to communicate with each other, perhaps about the weath-

er, dwindling food supply and whatever else crows like or need to discuss. However, it was a remarkable sight. Sometimes at sundown, we see them in masses flying overhead, in the sunset, diving from treetops and announcing the end of the day.

Well, I'm now writing a gothic mystery novel about crows, in a metaphysical sense, and hope to have it done sometime this year. Thanks again. — *Corvi 183, Chatsworth, Calif.*

## HEY, I'M WORKING HERE

To: webmaster@ascaronline.org

Since I've moved here - Half Moon Bay Calif. - which is right on the beach, I've become very interested in crows. We have lots here (thank goodness) and the other prolific birds are the seagull and hawks.

I love the call the crows make (as they're flying past), but I think the best thing was watching a crow prying a bug from a split rail fence with a short stick! (and occasionally taking out time to give me a 'don't interrupt me' look).

It was distressing to learn that the avian flu is killing so many crows (especially in Washington, D.C.). I was worried that it would totally wipe them out. My only hope is that the climate is so different it may inhibit incoming birds....

Have you heard about the increase in the population of ravens since the reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone? Apparently they have observed a real partnership between bits left over from wolf kills and the raven diet. The study actually included more plus(es), but I was fascinated to learn that (although you would think it would be a common sense conclusion). Thanks for your site. — *Corvi 3392 Half Moon Bay, Calif.*

## TALK CONTINUED

expelled from Lisbon, the first Portuguese King, Afonso Henriques, had St. Vincent's remains brought to Lisbon by ship. Again legend says that crows or ravens accompanied the coffin throughout the voyage and as it was carried to the cathedral that the King had built outside the old walls of Lisbon — the church of *Sao Vincente da Fora* or St. Vincent's outside the walls.

"The crows were allowed to live in the church, because everybody was so impressed by their loyalty," Corvi 72 noted. "The seal of the city portrays a ship with St. Vincent and two crows, and most crows, both tame and wild, are still referred to as *vincentes*."

Some suggest the birds accompanying the saint's remains may have been "sea crows" (cormorants) or could have been *P. pyrrhorax* (Red-beaked crow in Portuguese). More trivia: Among the

Crusaders who had helped expel the Moors from Lisbon was an English monk, Gilbert of Hastings, who became the first bishop of the restored diocese of Lisbon from 1147-1163.



City of Lisbon seal



# ROOST NOTES *wonder of winter roosts*

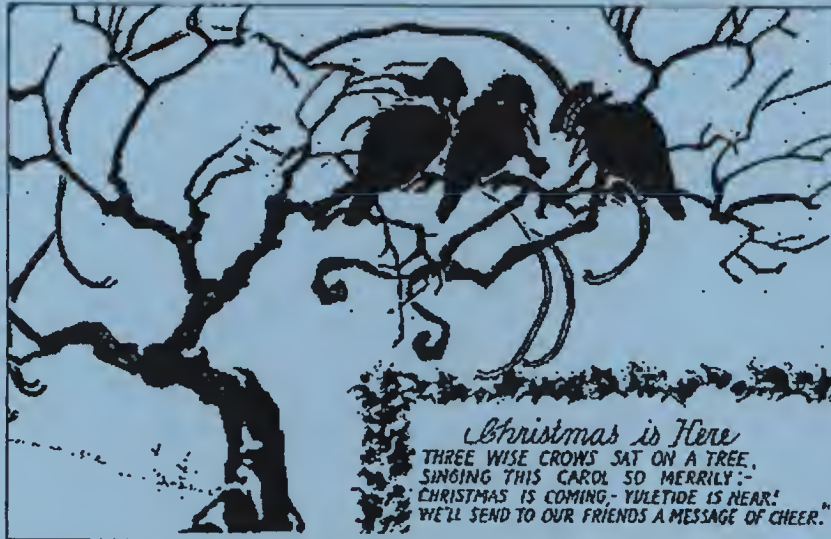
**T**housands of crows, silhouetted against a cold setting or rising sun, streaming into a winter roosting site is, for me, aesthetically spectacular. It is also a thought-provoking happening. One thought it often brings to mind is why do they do it – gather during the Fall in large flocks whose members stay together until early Spring, scatter out to forage during the day but return each evening to spend it packed together in a few brushy acres?

Commonly accepted explanations for this

behavior are: Perching side by side through the night gives the birds some protection against the cold and winter predators. Winter flocking promotes sexual selection and therefore genetic mixing. Experienced birds may lead others to food sources, which in the winter are less abundant and evenly distributed than in warmer months.

This makes speculative sense. But it is observable fact that winter roosting is not imperative for crows as is, say, hibernation for woodchucks. Throughout their range some crows do not join the big winter roosting flocks but remain as small family groups in their home territories without seemingly ill effects. All of which suggests that this behavior is not what we commonly think of as being innate or instinctive but rather is the result of exogenetic evolution; i.e., has developed because of learning, adaption, decision making, the exchange of information, the influence of custom or, in short, cultural inheritance.

(An aside: Exogenetic evolution brings about



Postcard holiday greeting submitted by Corvi 8.5, East Meadow, N.Y., who collects old postcards and found this card recently at a flea market. The card was undated but appears to be pre-1940.

change, creates new things much more rapidly and obviously than does endogenetic (physical) evolution. For example: whether one thinks they got there after a long journey from the primal sea or believes that one day Adam and Eve popped up in a garden there is general agreement that there were people here 5,000 years ago. And so far as is now known they were then endowed just about as they are now. In other words, during 5,000 years we have

been altered little if any by endogenetic evolution. But the exogenetic process has created what in functional terms amounts to a new species, individuals of which can live underwater, walk on the moon, speak to each other though separated by thousands of miles, eat whipping cream made of coal tar, watch wars, tornadoes, dog shows and Paris Hilton from the sanctity of climate-controlled homes.)

To get back to crows. It seems reasonable to assume that the winter roosting behavior originated for pragmatic reasons such as those mentioned above – and probably other ones. But given the power of acquired custom it is not outrageously anthropomorphic to wonder if joining a winter roosting flock – which is not apparently a life and death matter for these birds – may have become a satisfaction (compulsion, reward, motive) in and of itself for most crows at sometime in their lives.

A crow roost at dawn or sunset is often a cold place. But it is a wonderful thing to see and think about. – *Corvi 114*



**THE CORVI CHRONICLE** is published irregularly by corvi who have an interest in or need for doing so for members of The American Society of Crows and Ravens and others. There is no subscription fee, but it is customary and seems to send contributions to pay for production and mailing. There is a direct connection between contributions, the size of the Chronicle, and its frequency of distribution. Those who do not choose to contribute will continue to receive the Chronicle and enjoy all membership privileges. However, they will no doubt suffer a loss of self-esteem and may occasionally be mocked by other corvis.

Members are reminded to make new corvi by duplicating and passing along issues of the Chronicle.

ASCAR has a Web page : <http://www.ascaronline.org/>

Editor..... Corvi #65

Art Directors .... Corvi #6, #10, #39, #74 and #1066

The Board .... Known only to themselves

The Chronicle accepts articles and manuscripts of reasonable length on any topic acknowledged by The Board, news clippings and general correspondence. Unused material will be returned in good time to the authors. Commentary (insightful, indignant or otherwise) should be addressed to:

ASCAR / CORVI CHRONICLE  
KAW RIVER VALLEY ROOST  
Box 1423  
Lawrence KS 66044-8423

## Privacy act

ASCAR now numbers — so think some who enjoy counting things — about 1,000 members. Alphabetically and in terms of interests and attitudes members range — an expression — from academics to Zoroastrians. But only the editor and an associate minion know who and where they all are. This is in keeping with the Corvi Privacy Act that forbids those who know from talking about or to other corvis or using their names and addresses in the Chronicle without permission. The CPA is occasionally tested by purveyors of crow curios wanting access to mailing lists.

However, because many members have similar interests and have indicated a desire to make the acquaintance of others who share them, some thought has been given to adjusting the CPA to accommodate these wishes. Therefore anyone who would like to hear from other corvi should send along their name and address to the editor. These will be published occasionally in the Chronicle. Names are not absolutely necessary — Corvi numbers will do — but addresses are. Obviously those who wish to remain known only to the editor and her associate minion should do nothing and will continue to enjoy the protection of CPA.

## MIGHTY SHINY PIECES OF COAL YOU HAVE THERE!



Ink drawing by Joyce Haynes, Pineville, Mo.

## CORVI CHRONICLE

American Society of Crows and Ravens  
Kaw River Valley Roost  
Box 1423  
Lawrence KS 66044-8423

## INSIDE

ψ CORVID ALMANAC,  
thoughts for 2006 with  
postal art.

ψ ROOST NOTES on won-  
ders of winter roosts.

ψ BOOK NOTES two  
books inspired by crows

ψ TALK OF THE ROOST  
tunes into KPLU 88.5  
(Seattle) BirdNotes &

Portugal's term of endear-  
ment for corvids.